



PRESS RELEASE

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PUMPING ON PACE TO MEET TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT MILESTONE

CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. (CH2M HILL) is on track to meet the regulatory milestone of removing all but 2 percent of the pumpable liquid waste from Hanford's aging single-shell tanks by the end of September 2003. CH2M HILL is the tank farm prime contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP).

"We're at about 3 percent of the pumpable liquid remaining in the single-shell tanks," said Steve Wiegman, Senior Technical Advisor for the ORP. "If we are able to maintain current pumping rates, we'll meet that September milestone date."

CH2M HILL has transferred approximately 530,000 gallons since October 2002. An additional 33,000 gallons needs to be removed by September 30, 2003 to meet the Tri-Party Agreement milestone.

"This is real risk reduction," said Wiegman. "Moving waste from these older single-shell tanks reduces the risk of further harm to the environment as we get ready to treat the waste and close Hanford's tanks."

CH2M HILL is removing the pumpable liquid wastes under an aggressive schedule negotiated by DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology in 1998. One hundred thirty-six single-shell tanks have already been interim stabilized, as defined by the decree and agreed to by Ecology. Of the 13 remaining tanks, two are being evaluated to confirm satisfaction of interim stabilization criteria, eight are available for pumping and the other three have suspended pumping and were transitioned from interim stabilization to retrieval.

ORP and CH2M HILL have until September 2004 to remove the remaining 61,000 gallons of pumpable liquid waste from the single-shell tanks.

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